

REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

The present amendment is submitted in response to the Non-Final Office Action mailed November 13, 2009. In view of the amendments above and the remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-13 will remain pending in this application. Claims 1-13 have been amended. Claims 14-19 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is added by the present amendments.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 1-13, 16 and 17-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 16-18 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. The rejection of the remainder of the claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 9 and 12 is understood to be based on the premise that the structural relationship between the surfaces (L1), (L2), (L3) and (L4,L5) is confusing as it is unclear whether both surfaces (L1), (L2) comprise a photosensitive layer or just one surface. Claims 1-13 have been amended in a manner which is believed to overcome the rejections. In particular, Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the removable protective transparent layer (L4) is a single layer. A dual layer removable protective transparent layer (L4, L5) is described in dependent claim 12. Additionally, Claims 1-3, 5-9 and 12 have been further amended to remove antecedent basis issues with regard to the terms, “the transparent layer”, “the photosensitive layer”, “the patterned resist layer” and “the protective layer.” Accordingly, withdrawal of the claim rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC 102

In the Office Action, Claims 14 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e) as being anticipated by either U.S. Patent No. 2,373,289 (“R.F. Brown”) or U.S. Patent No. 6,040,116 (“Tesler”). Claims 14 and 19 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims presently pending in the application, namely, Claims 1-13 are believed to be in condition for allowance and patentably distinguishable over the art of record.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call Mike Belk, Esq., Intellectual Property Counsel, Philips Electronics North America, at 914-945-6000.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael A. Scaturro
Reg. No. 51,356
Attorney for Applicant

Mailing Address:
Intellectual Property Counsel
Philips Electronics North America Corp.
P.O. Box 3001
345 Scarborough Road
Briarcliff Manor, New York 10510-8001